

Reading Revision- Fiction

The Great Migration

"We're not going to make it!" Meena shouted above the roar of the wind.

"Yes we are!" Mondo shouted back. "Keep flying! Not long now!"

Another strong gust hit Meena, knocking her off-course. For a moment, she lost sight of her best friend. "Mondo!" she cried out.

"I'm here," he replied, swooping between the other butterflies.

Meena's right antenna reached out to touch Mondo's wing. "I'm so tired," she said. "I don't know if I can go on much longer."

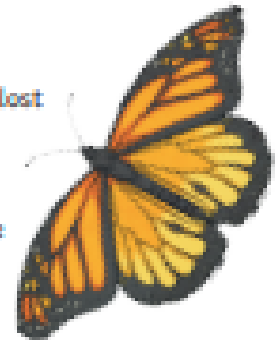
They had been travelling north for weeks now, while searching for a safe place for Meena to lay her eggs. The elder butterflies had said it was important to leave their Mexican home in the Michoacan Mountains as there would be nothing for her babies to eat when they hatched. The entire colony – over 100 million monarch butterflies – had set off on an incredible journey: a migration her ancestors had been doing for thousands of years. She knew deep inside that the elders were right, but she never wanted to leave the safety of Michoacan – especially after they had flown all those hundreds of miles to get there in the first place during the autumn. Now, as the rain fell and her wings became heavy, she longed to return.

"There!" Mondo suddenly shouted.

His antennae were pointing down through the misty rain and cloud. Meena took a sharp intake of breath as she saw the green land below. "Milkweed!" she laughed as thousands of monarchs parted from the main colony gliding towards their species' favourite plant.

Meena fluttered from leaf to leaf, laying her precious eggs. "It's been a long journey," she sighed, eventually coming to rest on a large tree.

"So sleepy..." Mondo agreed, yawning. They snuggled up together. They were so tired and now all the eggs were safely laid all they wanted to do was to fall into a deep, deep sleep. "I'm so proud of you," Mondo whispered. Meena smiled, nuzzling her head into his wings, and the two monarch butterflies, having fulfilled their role in the cycle of life, drifted slowly away...



1. Where had Meena and Mondo flown from?



2. How many butterflies were in the colony?



3. 'For a moment, she lost sight of her best friend. "Mondo!" she cried out.' How do you think Meena was feeling at this point in the story?



4. At the end, it says the two butterflies 'drifted slowly away'. What do you think the author means by this?

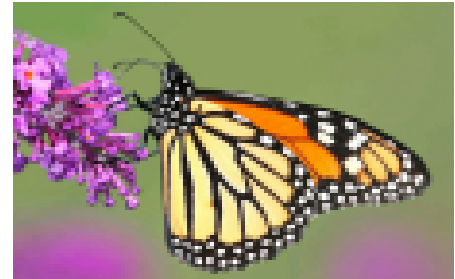
Reading Revision- Non Fiction

Monarch Butterfly

The monarch is an incredible butterfly. Each year, this brightly-coloured insect spends the spring and summer months munching on milkweed leaves and drinking nectar from flowers in North America. When autumn comes and the weather turns cold, it travels thousands of miles south to Mexico. It then spends the entire winter hibernating; only to wake up in the spring to travel all the way back again!

Migration

The monarch migrates further than any other butterfly. What's even more amazing is that it takes four generations of monarchs for this to happen – the creatures only live for a few months. That means it will take a monarch butterfly's great grandchild to complete the entire journey over the year! How they know how to do this has baffled scientists for years!



Milkweed

Milkweed is the only plant monarchs eat when they are caterpillars and they don't grow in the forests of Mexico. That's why it's important for the butterfly to fly back north to USA and Canada where there's lots of it. The monarch will then lay its eggs on the underside of milkweed leaves. Once the caterpillar hatches, it gorges on the tasty green leaves for about two weeks. It then connects itself to a twig or a leaf and forms a chrysalis. That's when its amazing transformation into a butterfly begins.



1. Where do monarch butterflies spend the winter?



2. Why is it important for the monarch to fly back north to USA and Canada when it's spring?



3. 'Once the caterpillar hatches, it gorges on the tasty green leaves...'.
What does it mean by 'gorges'?



4. What makes the monarch butterfly so 'incredible' and 'amazing'? Think of at least three reasons.

Reading Revision- Poetry

Butterfly, Butterfly

Butterfly, butterfly, how do you grow?

By eating and drinking, why - didn't you know?

Butterfly, butterfly, what do you eat?

The nectar of flowers and things that are sweet.

Butterfly, butterfly, what was before?

An egg and a larva - the stages are four.

Butterfly, butterfly, larva - what's that?

A wriggly caterpillar, nice and fat.

Butterfly, butterfly, what was then next?

A pupa; a chrysalis - it's quite complex.

Butterfly, butterfly, when came your wings?

They grew in my pupa - such colourful things!

Butterfly, butterfly, how do you fly?

By flitting and fluttering into the sky.

Butterfly, butterfly, what really are you?

An insect with six legs - there's quite a few.

Butterfly, butterfly, what will you do?

I'll start my own family, fresh and new!



1. In the poem, what does the butterfly eat?



2. What is a butterfly larva?



3. 'Butterfly, butterfly, how do you fly? By flitting and fluttering into the sky'.
Think of two different verbs you could use to replace 'flitting' and 'fluttering':



4. Read the final verse. If there was another verse following on from it, what might it be about?
